

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-01 MMO-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
NRC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 EB-08 AID-05 FEA-01 /119 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF:AMB. SCHAUFELLE
AF/P:RADUMAS

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R 170101Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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LONDON FOR SEITZ, PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: HOAGLAND ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR
POTENTIAL

1. IN FEBRUARY 16 WASHINGTON POST, JIM HOAGLAND WRITES THAT
SOUTH AFRICA, WITH THE HELP OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND
AMERICAN-SUPPLIED ENRICHED URANIUM, HAS DEVELOPED AN INDE-
PENDENT NUCLEAR INDUSTRY THAT IS WITHIN TWO TO FOUR YEARS
OF MANUFACTURING AN ATOMIC BOMB.

2. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED TO SPOKESMAN BUT NOT
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USED AS QUESTION DID NOT ARISE. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON
GUIDANCE IF ASKED.

3. Q: COULD YOU COMMENT ON TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST STORY
THAT SOUTH AFRICA, WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE, IS APPROACHING THE
CAPABILITY OF MANUFACTURING AN ATOMIC BOMB?

A: THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE RAISES A NUMBER OF COMPLICATED ISSUES. FOR THE PRESENT, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT, IN THE FIRST PLACE, BECAUSE OF ITS PROLIFERATION IMPLICATIONS, WE HAVE NEVER TRANSFERRED URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. MOREOVER THE CONTROL OF

DECONTROL ON RECEIPT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS A BASIC ELEMENT IN OUR NUCLEAR POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES TO WHOM WE SUPPLY NUCLEAR MATERIALS. OUR AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE OF 29 SUCH AGREEMENTS WE HAVE ENTERED INTO IN THE PAST TWO DECADES. IT CALLS FOR STRICT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THESE SAFEGUARDS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. INDEED AS THE ARTICLE SAYS, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THEY HAVE BEEN ADHERED TO.

WE HAVE STRONGLY URGED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ADHERE TO THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THEM TO TAKE THIS STEP.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, URANIUM, PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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